

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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SAM-01 OMB-01 SSM-03 IO-13 /076 W

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, IS, JO

SUBJECT: DEATHS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN RAMALLAH

REF: JERUSALEM 536

1. SUMMARY: NATIONALISTIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN RAMALLAH FOLLOW ELECTION-RELATED SHOOTING. DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST SETTLEMENTS AND GUSH EMUNIM MARCH. OTHER WEST BANK CITIES REPORTEDLY REPRESENTED. SMALL BOY DIES IN CLASH BETWEEN DEMONSTRATORS AND SECURITY FORCES.

2. LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN RAMALLAH AND EL BIREH FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF MAN SHOT IN AN ELECTION DISPUTE APRIL 16 AND THE DEATH OF A 6-YEAR OLD BOY SHOT IN AN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DEMONSTRATORS AND ISRAELIS APRIL 17.

3. THE DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH BEGAN AS MOURNING PROCESSIONS QUICKLY TOOK ON NATIONALIST CHARACTER AS SOME 2,000 DEMONSTRATORS CALLED FOR THE EXECUTION OF ABDNUR JANHU, A FORMER CITY COUNCILMAN WHO IS WIDELY REGARDED TO BE AN ISRAELI

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COLLABORATOR. JANHU WHO FAILED IN A RE-ELECTION BID IS

BEING HELD BY AUTHORITIES. THE DEAD MAN AND A SECOND MAN WHOSE CONDITION IS REPORTED TO BE SATISFACTORY WERE SAID TO BE SUPPORTERS OF KARIM KHALAF, WHO WAS RE-ELECTED MAYOR ON A "NATIONALIST" SLATE.

4. DEMONSTRATORS SAID THEY WERE ALSO PROTESTING ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK AND GUSH EMUNIM MARCH TO JERICHO. THEY CARRIED A REPLICA OF THE PALESTINIAN FLAG AND CHANTED: "THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, THE ARAB REVOLUTION" AND "NO TO SETTLEMENTS." OTHER SIGNS STRESSED MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY IN THIS PREDOMINANTLY CHRISTIAN TOWN.

5. THE JERUSALEM PRESS REPORTS THAT NEWLY-ELECTED MAYORS OF HEBRON AND NABLUS AS WELL AS DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER WEST BANK CITIES PARTICIPATED IN THE FUNERAL PROCESSIONS.

6. A STRONG ISRAELI SECURITY FORCE, INCLUDING AT LEAST FOUR APC'S, WAS ON HAND TO CONTROL THE DEMONSTRATIONS. THE SECURITY FORCES TURNED THE CROWD BACK AT THE TOWN CENTER, BUT DID NOT TRY TO DISPERSE IT.

7. SCHOOL STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ALSO TOOK PLACE IN NABLUS AND JENIN OVER THE WEEKEND, ACCORDING TO THE JERUSALEM PRESS.

8. COMMENT: SIZE, REPRESENTATION FROM OTHER CITIES, AND OPENLY NATIONALISTIC CHARACTER OF APRIL 17 AND 18 DEMONSTRATIONS REFLECT AN ESCALATION IN WEST BANK STREET POLITICS. ONE MONTH AGO, ISRAELIS DISPERSED DEMONSTRATORS WHO TOOK TO THE STREETS AND ENTERED SCHOOLS WHERE STUDENTS WERE STAGING SIT DOWN STRIKES AND CHANTING NATIONALIST SLOGANS. ISRAELI CONDUCT IN RAMALLAH MAY REFLECT NEW POLICY OR IMPROVISATION WITH A SITUATION WHICH EXCEEDED CAPACITY OF ISRAELIS TO QUELL COMPLETELY.

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